

Talk about a hybrid!

GIRL GANG'S NEW BUILD WILL MAKE A CLASSIC 1961 VOLVO PV544 AND A 2019 VOLVO S60 T8 POLESTAR ENGINEERED PLUG-IN HYBRID BECOME AS ONE.

By Joe Sage with Shawnda Williams



Shawnda Williams (left) and Bogi Lateiner, Girl Gang Garage

Girl Gang Garage of Phoenix has announced a new partnership with Volvo Cars, who have come on board to raise awareness of a severe lack of women in the automotive industry.

Girl Gang is a catalyst for gender diversity in the male-dominated automotive industry. In 2016, Bogi Lateiner, Master Technician, TV host and advocate for women the trades, led an all female truck build known as the Chevy Montage. The response was overwhelming, highlighting an undeniable need within the industry and an equally pressing desire from women at large. Bogi soon partnered with Shawnda Williams, design technologist and strategist, to found Girl Gang.

More than a physical location, the Garage is a living, breathing network of women, ranging from novices to industry veterans, all coming together with the singular goal of growing stronger together and developing new opportunities for the next generation.

Volvo and the Iron Maven

Volvo Cars and Girl Gang have partnered to call attention to the need for more women in the auto industry with a custom plug-in hybrid car project that merges 1960s style with modern technology, power and efficiency.

As part of their support of the mission at Girl Gang, Volvo has provided a 2019 S60 T8 Polestar Engineered sedan that will provide the underpinnings of Girl Gang's latest all-female build, Iron Maven. Merging the Garage's own 1961 Volvo PV544 coupe with the Volvo S60 T8 will result in a powerful 415 horsepower plug-in hybrid car with modern finishes and technology neatly packaged in a classic design.

The union of the PV544 and the S60 is unconventional, and there is a reason for that. Girl Gang intentionally tackles unusual and daring builds to challenge themselves, to create greater awareness of their mission, and to be a living example that whatever you dream up, you can build. "We have set the bar high for ourselves and plan to cut no corners," says Girl Gang partner Shawnda Williams. "Iron Maven's final design will be the culmination of astute problem solving and aesthetics. Every bit of technical complexity is equally matched with thoughtful design decisions. As we progress through this build, we will be sharing more of what the final design will look like. Expect to see an aggressively sportier rendition of Volvo PV544, with a lowered stance, widened rear fenders, and a more refined front end."

Additional partners

BASF, an international automotive coatings, chemical company, and leading partner for the Chevy

(cont'd)





Montage build, again shows its commitment to promoting women in the automotive trades. BASF will be featuring the Iron Maven in their highly coveted SEMA booth, where it will be unveiled. Like its predecessor, they will also be holding a color contest with their supporters and fans helping them decide on one of the most critical decisions of any car build—what color to paint it.

Merging old and new naturally creates some complex gaps, and Girl Gang has partnered with some heavy hitters in the additive manufacturing industry to help us pull this off. In addition to their partnership with Volvo Cars, Girl Gang is also bringing a completely new 3D printing element to this build.

Stratasys, a manufacturer of 3D printers and 3D production systems, has partnered with Girl Gang and will be helping facilitate any necessary 3D printing needs to provide critical parts to help bridge the gap between old and new.

Next is local Phoenix company PADT, who have swooped in as an invaluable resource for anything and everything 3D printing-related, from machine setup to scanning of the 61 Volvo and significant components of the S60.

Finally, Girl Gang has connected with Women in 3D printing—a similar-minded advocacy group looking to encourage more women to pursue career opportunities in 3D printing and adjacent STEM industries—whose knowledge will be instrumental in working collaboratively to achieve some pretty exciting opportunities.

The build

Iron Maven is the third all female build from Girl Gang and also the most complex to date. The largest build of its kind, they expect it to involve over 100 women by the end of the build. The Volvo Cars Technical Support team, based in both the US and in Sweden, is assisting the team with select component and system integration.

Bogi Lateiner is leading a team of professional and hobbyist female mechanics, body technicians, painters and welders, including several female Volvo hybrid trained technicians. Additionally, women with limited to no automotive experience but who desire to learn are welcomed as part of the team.

A “barn find” in the Phoenix area, the PV544 represents a combination of modest classicism and the company’s heritage. The car will be adapted and updated to accommodate technologically advanced elements from the S60 T8 Polestar Engineered sedan, notably the plug-in hybrid drivetrain—a Drive-E, four-cylinder gasoline engine paired to electric motors.

The modern Polestar Engineered car’s suspension, vehicle control systems and Sensus infotain-

ment system are also planned to be integrated into the new car. Major modifications, custom 3D-printed components, traditional metal fabrication techniques and technical analyses ensure the final car carries through the essence of classic, current and forward-looking elements and approaches.

“This build is about celebrating both the past and the future, not only as it relates to Volvo and the evolution of the Automotive Industry, but also in relation to the presence of women in the industry. The amount of skill required by our all female team to combine these two Volvos into one as ‘Iron Maven’ is nothing short of incredible,” says Lateiner. “There are so many incredibly talented women in the industry and there is strong interest from novices when given an opportunity like this to learn. We are so grateful for our industry partners who have joined with us to make this build not only a reality, but also a concrete example of what the power of women working together can make possible.”

Tackling a diversity gap

According to US Bureau of Labor Statistics data, only nine percent of automotive repair and maintenance positions are held by women, compared to the average gender split of 46 percent women employed in other industries. The Iron Maven project brings to life the ongoing focus by Girl Gang and Volvo Cars to spark a change for women in the automotive industry and provide real, lasting career opportunities.

Girl Gang provides a range of year-round classes and events at their primary location in Phoenix. Volvo Cars and Girl Gang programming as well as the Iron Maven project build also relate to technical, vocational and STEM learning at schools.

Volvo is one of few multinational car manufacturer to recognize gender inequities and commit to taking proactive measures to address these issues within their company. They seek to increase the number of its female service technicians and offers a series of development programs, scholarships, partnerships and more at training centers across the US. This includes a 50/50 Gender Neutral Leadership Commitment in recruitment and promotion to leadership positions, as well as a larger focus on supporting the company’s transition to a fully electrified lineup of vehicles.

More info and SEMA reveal

Iron Maven is scheduled to be unveiled at the 2022 SEMA Show in Las Vegas. To follow along or learn more about training programs and opportunities:

- social: @girlganggarage, @bogisgarage
- www.girlganggarage.com
- www.volvocartechs.com ■



Also don't miss!... GIRL GANG Garage CAR CARE CLASS

Girl Gang Garage welcomes you to join their Women's Car Care Class. The class is led by automotive expert Bogi Lateiner, ASE certified mechanic, host of *Motor Trend's All Girl's Garage* and nationally recognized educator.

She will share some of her favorite female-friendly techniques for basic auto care and walking you through the process of how to:

- ▼ Change a tire
- ▼ Check fluids
- ▼ Change wipers
- ▼ Check belts & hoses
- ▼ Jump start

Bogi will also cover the basics of brake and cooling systems and any other car care processes or general car care questions you may have.

Held the last Saturday of every month, the next class is September 25, 9am-12 noon.

Limited class size: In order to comply with new CDC recommendations for social distancing, maximum class size is limited to 10 people, and classes will fill quickly.

Please be sure to bring and wear work clothes and covered shoes. ***MASKS ARE REQUIRED.***

Admission is \$15.

www.girlganggarage.com/classes-events

